



# HF Happenings 773

Volume 15, Issue 36, the week of 27 November 2017



## Southern Africa Fauna and Flora

### The Southern African Fauna and Flora Programme

Where are you going to for your December holiday? To one of the game parks or nature reserves in Southern Africa? At present there are 512 parks in seven Southern African countries registered – Swaziland, Lesotho, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Visit the SAFF web site at <https://ffzs.wordpress.com/> to get a list of the participating parks with their reference numbers, the rules for participating can also be found on the web site.

How do I activate a park? To activate a park, you and all your equipment (this includes the antenna) need to be within the perimeters of the park – a portable or a mobile station. The minimum exchange is your call sign and the reference number of the park, e.g. 7P8DG 7PFF-0001.

Activators - you must make 10 QSOs to claim the park towards an activator award, you can make the 10 QSOs over several days – *the WWFF programme works on 44 QSOs, but as we struggle to work 4 QSOs for a SOTA activation, how long will we take to activate a WWFF!*

Activity is always valid for chasers, regardless of the number of QSOs - so always send us your log! You can only work from one reference at a time - so if you are in a park that is a sub-region of a larger

park you can only use the reference of the sub-region.

Download a copy of the SAFF Rules or read the article on page 12 to 17 of the December 2017 issue of Radio ZS, there is a link on the front page of the League's web site and get active from a fauna and flora site.



You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from [www.sarl.org.za/hf\\_happenings.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp)



### December

- 1 – start of the YOTA Month; birth of the prophet
- 3 – SARL Digital Contest; Day for Disabled Persons
- 6 – all schools close
- 9 and 10 – ARRL 10 metre contest
- 13 to 20 – Chanukah
- 16 – Day of Reconciliation
- 21 – Summer Solstice
- 24 – Christmas Eve
- 25 – Christmas Day
- 26 – Family Day
- 27 - closing date for January 2018 Radio ZS
- 31 - End of 2017 CQ Marathon and YOTA month

**23:59 CAT 31 December - destroy your copy of the 2017 SARL Blue Book.**

### January 2018

**00:01 CAT 1 January – Download a copy of the 2018 SARL Blue Book**

- 1 – New Year's Day; start of the 2018 CQ DX Marathon; start of the 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase

### The ARRL 10 Metre Contest

The upcoming ARRL 10 Meter contest includes both phone and CW modes <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>. Choose to do either, or both. You can work a station once on each mode for credit. During this part of the solar cycle, the pace of activity is likely going to be on the slow side, but that could change depending on short-term solar conditions. Bands are generally more open than we think they are as indicated by tools such as

the Reverse Beacon Network <http://www.reversebeacon.net/> and the PSK Reporter <https://pskreporter.info/pskmap.html> websites.

### A very long lightning bolt

A 250-mile long lightning bolt was captured on a satellite image <http://komonews.com/weather/scotts-weather-blog/watch-250-mile-long-lightning-strike-captured-on-satellite-image>. The bolt occurred over Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri on the night of 22 October 2017. Powerful lightning has long been theorized to be able to cause nuclear reactions, but the phenomenon was only recently observed in nature <https://www.sciencealert.com/thunderstorms-observed-triggering-nuclear-reactions-in-the-sky-lightning-gamma>. Gamma rays, a result of certain types of nuclear reactions, were measured by radiation detectors during a storm near Niigata, Japan in February 2017.

### Using FT8?

If you've been using FT8 for a while, you likely have upgraded the software you've been using along the way. You might want to review "FT8 Operating Tips for DXers" (PDF) to see if there are operating practices that also need to be updated as a result of the new software [http://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/FT8\\_Operating\\_Tips.pdf](http://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/FT8_Operating_Tips.pdf).

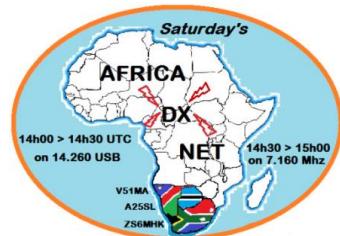
### December 2017 - YOTA month:

During December Youngsters on the Air makes another effort to introduce amateur radio to young interested parties. The following stations have already registered their plans to operate: 3V8YOTA, 6V1YOTA, 9A17YOTA, DQ17YOTA, ES9YOTA, GB17YOTA, II2YOTA, OD5YOTA, OF2YOTA, R17YOTA, SH9YOTA, ZS9YOTA, and more. QSL for all calls via Clublog OQRS or MOSDV (direct). <https://events.ham-yota.com/>



### African DX

Mauritania, 5T. Fawaz, A92AA, is now active as 5T1A from the capital city Nouakchott until 20 December. However, he will take a short break to be a member of the 5T5TI (IOTA AF-050) DXpedition Team between 1 and 7 December. Activity outside of the IOTA DXpedition will be on all bands using SSB and FT8. QSL via A92AA.



The Gambia, C5. Andre, ON7YK, is now active as C5YK from Bijilo for almost the next 2 months. He is currently the only resident licensed operator in The Gambia! Activity will be on 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 metres. He has been active on FT8. QSL via his home callsign, direct, LoTW or eQSL. Visit his web page at [www.on7yk.eu/index.html](http://www.on7yk.eu/index.html)

### African Islands

#### IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz



Mauritania, 5T: Ahmad, 9K2AI, Obaid, A61M, and Fawaz, A92AA are going to be active as 5T5TI from Tida Island (AF-050 - Dakhlet Nouadhibou/ Inchiri Region group) from 1 to 7 December on 80 to 10 m on SSB, CW and digital modes. QSL via NI5DX (d), LoTW.

### Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 26 November to 7 December 2017

CWops Mini-CWT Test  
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 29 November and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 30 November

Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Awards: Worldwide

Mode: CW  
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high  
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
Exchange:  
Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
Multipliers: Each call once  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 2 December 2017  
Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

RSGB 80 m Autumn Series, CW  
20:00 - 21:30 UTC 30 November  
Geographic Focus: United Kingdom  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 80 m Only  
Classes: 100 W; 10 W  
Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no and your name  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 1 December 2017  
Upload log at: <http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2017/rautumn.shtml>

NCCC RTTY Sprint  
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 1 December  
Geographic Focus: North America  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: RTTY  
Bands: (see rules)  
Classes: (none)  
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 3 December 2017  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
<http://www.nccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

QRP Fox Hunt  
02:00 UTC-03:30 UTC 1 December  
Geographic Focus: United States

Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 80 m Only  
Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)  
Max power: 5 watts  
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 2 December 2017  
E-mail logs to: (see rules)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: [http://www.grpfoxyhunt.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.grpfoxyhunt.org/winter_rules.htm)

NCCC Sprint  
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 1 December  
Geographic Focus: North America  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: (see rules)  
Classes: (none)  
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 3 December 2017  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at:  
<http://www.nccsprint.com/rules.html>

ARRL 160-Meter Contest  
22:00 UTC 1 December to 16:00 UTC 3 December  
Geographic Focus: United States/Canada  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 160 m Only  
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Single Op Unlimited - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single – low or high  
Max operating hours: 42 hours  
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
Exchange: W/VE: RST and ARRL/RAC Section; DX: RST  
QSO Points: 2 points per QSO with ARRL/RAC Section; W/VE Station: 5 points per DX QSO  
Multipliers: Each ARRL/RAC Sections; Each DXCC Country (W/VE only)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (total section mults and total country mults)  
Submit logs by: 16:00 UTC 8 December 2017  
E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: <http://contest-log-submission.arrl.org>

Mail logs to: 160 Meter Contest, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA  
Find rules at: <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint  
06:00 - 06:29 UTC and 06:30 - 06:59 UTC and 07:00 - 07:29 UTC and 07:30 - 08:00 UTC 2 December  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 40, 20 m  
Classes: (none)  
Max power: 5 watts  
Exchange: RST, serial no and suffix of previous QSO ("QRP" for 1st QSO)  
Work stations: Once per band per period  
QSO Points: 1 point per km  
Multipliers: 1 point per new station worked on each band  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total multiplier points  
Submit logs by: 9 December 2017  
E-mail logs to: [ru-qrp-club@mail.ru](mailto:ru-qrp-club@mail.ru)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: <http://qrp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng>

TOPS Activity Contest  
16:00 UTC 2 December to 15:59 UTC 3 December  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW  
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single  
Max power: High: >100 watts; Low: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
Exchange: TOPS/PRO-CW Members: RST, serial no and Club Abbreviation; non-Members: RST and serial no  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: QSO with own country: 1 point; QSO with own continent or other continents: 2 points; QSO with TOPS/PRO-CW member: 2 bonus points; QSO between TOPS/PRO-CW members: 6 bonus points  
Multipliers: Each prefix outside of entrant's country once per band  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 10 December 2017  
E-mail logs to: [contest@procwclub.ro](mailto:contest@procwclub.ro)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: <http://www.procwclub.ro/TAC%20Rules.html>

#### EPC Ukraine DX Contest

20:00 UTC 2 December to 19:59 UTC 3 December  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: BPSK63  
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
Classes: Single Op All Band (12 hour/24 hour); Single Op Low Band; Single Op High Band; Multi-Single  
Max power: 100 watts  
Exchange: Ukraine: RSQ and Ukr Admin Region; non-Ukraine: RSQ and QSO no  
Work stations: Once per band  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country; 2 points per QSO with same continent, different country; 5 points per QSO with different continent; non-Ukraine: 10 points per QSO with Ukrainian station  
Multipliers: Each DXCC country once per band; Each Ukrainian administrative region once per band  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 17 December 2017  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Upload log at: <http://ua9qcq.com/contests/robot.php/>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: <http://vinradio.ho.ua/page184.html>

#### Ten-Meter RTTY Contest

00:00 UTC-24:00 UTC 3 December  
Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
Participation: Worldwide  
Awards: Worldwide  
Mode: RTTY  
Bands: 10 m Only  
Classes: Single Op; Multi-Single  
Max power: 100 watts  
Exchange: W: RST and state; VE: RST and province/territory; non-W/VE: RST and serial no  
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
Multipliers: Each US state (excluding KH6/KL7) and DC once; Each VE province/territory once; Each DXCC country (excluding W/VE)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 11 December 2017  
E-mail logs to: [ten-rtty@kkn.net](mailto:ten-rtty@kkn.net)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: <http://www.rttycontesting.com/ten-meter-rtty-contest/rules/>

#### SARL Digital Contest

13:00 - 16:00 UTC 3 December  
Geographic Focus: Southern Africa  
Participation: Southern Africa  
Awards: Southern Africa

Mode: PSK, RTTY  
 Bands: 80, 40, 20 m  
 Classes: (none)  
 Exchange: RSQ and QSO no  
 Work stations: Once per mode per band  
 QSO Points: (see rules)  
 Multipliers: (see rules)  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 10 December 2017  
 E-mail logs to: [contest@sarl.org.za](mailto:contest@sarl.org.za)  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: <http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/Members/DoDocDownload.aspx?X=20161222085537waqSliCvbT.PDF>  
**ARS Spartan Sprint**  
 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 5 December  
 Geographic Focus: North America  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: Skinny; Tubby  
 Max power: 5 watts  
 Exchange: RST, state, province or country and power  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 Submit logs by: 7 December 2017  
 E-mail logs to: [spartansprint@yahoo.com](mailto:spartansprint@yahoo.com)  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: <http://arsqrp.blogspot.com/2009/02/so-whats-spartan-sprint-and-how-do-i.html>  
**QRP Fox Hunt**  
 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 6 December  
 Geographic Focus: United States  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: 40 m Only  
 Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)  
 Max power: 5 watts  
 Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output  
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
 Multipliers: (none)  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
 Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 7 December 2017  
 E-mail logs to: (see rules)  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: [http://www.qrpfcohunt.org/winter\\_rules.htm](http://www.qrpfcohunt.org/winter_rules.htm)  
**Phone Fray**  
 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 6 December  
 Geographic Focus: North America  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m  
 Classes: Single Op  
 Max power: 100 watts  
 Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station  
 Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 8 December 2017  
 E-mail logs to: (none)  
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: [http://www.prluma.com/Phone\\_Fray\\_Contest\\_Rules.pdf](http://www.prluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf)  
**CWops Mini-CWT Test**  
 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 6 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 7 December  
 Geographic Focus: Worldwide  
 Participation: Worldwide  
 Awards: Worldwide  
 Mode: CW  
 Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m  
 Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high  
 Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts  
 Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country  
 Work stations: Once per band  
 QSO Points: 1 point per QSO  
 Multipliers: Each call once  
 Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults  
 Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 9 December 2017  
 Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>  
 Mail logs to: (none)  
 Find rules at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>  
**QRP ARCI Topband Sprint**  
 00:00 - 06:00 UTC 7 December  
 Mode: CW, SSB  
 Bands: 160 m Only  
 Classes: CW Only; SSB Only; Mixed  
 Max operating hours: 6 hours  
 Exchange: ARCI: RST, state, province or country and ARCI no; non-ARCI: RST, state, province or country and power out  
 Work stations: Once regardless of mode  
 QSO Points: ARCI Member: 5 points; Non-Member Different Continent: 4 points; Non-Member Same Continent: 2 points

Multipliers: States, once regardless of mode; VE Provinces, once regardless of mode; Countries, once regardless of mode  
CW Power Mult: x 1 >5 W, x 7 1 – 5 W, x 10 250 mW – 1 W, x 15 55 – 250 mW, x 20 <55 mW  
SSB Power Mult: x 1 >10 W, x 7 2 – 10 W, x 10 500 mW – 2 W, x 15 100 – 500 mW, x 20 <55 mW  
Mixed Power Mult: smaller of CW or SSB power multiplier  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (state mults and province mults and country mults) x power mult  
Submit logs by: 21 December 2017  
E-mail logs to: (none)  
Upload log at: <http://www.grpcontest.com>  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: <http://www.qrparci.org/>

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest

18:00 - 19:00 UTC (CW) and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (SSB) and 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (FM) and 21:00 - 22:00 UTC 7 December (Dig)  
Geographic Focus: Nordic Europe  
Participation: Worldwide  
Mode: CW, SSB, FM, Digital  
Bands: 10 m Only  
Classes: (none)  
Exchange: RS(T) and 6-character grid square  
QSO Points: (see rules)  
Multipliers: (none)  
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points  
Submit logs by: 21 December 2017  
Upload log at: [http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit\\_log.php?lang=en](http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en)  
Mail logs to: (none)  
Find rules at: <http://www.nrau.net/activity-contests/below-30mhz.html>

## Next Week's Contests

*Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter*

## 4X0XMAS from Shivta

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has declared Shivta to be a World Heritage Site. The Shivta National Park is on the list of confirmed WFF Israel National Parks Award (4XFF- 032), and has a very long and interesting history (see the Web page at <http://www.biblewalks.com/sites/Shivta.html>).

Members of the "The Holy land DX Group" (Shalom/4Z4BS, Mark/4Z4KX, Ruben/4Z5FI, Yulik/4X6HP, Ros/4Z5LA, Vlad/4Z5IW, Arthur/4X4DZ, Alex/4Z4AK and Jan/4X1VF) are going to operate from this location between 08:00 UTC Friday 22 December to noon on 24 December. It will be the first time operating from this QTH (Holy land Square D27BS).

They will use the callsign 4X0XMAS, and will be running three stations using CW and SSB on the WWFF frequencies.

This operation will also participate in the "Christianity on the Air" event (22 to 24 December) for the HOCOTA award. For details, please visit QRZ.com under 4X9XMAS. QSL via LoTW and eQSL.